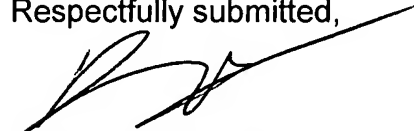


REMARKS

Claims 17-26 have been cancelled. New claims 27-32 have been added, and are pending in the present application. Prompt examination and an early indication of allowability are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: May 27, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

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